



**GLOBAL
CARBON
COUNCIL**

Driving Climate Actions

Program Definitions

V3.1 – 2020

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ACRONYMS	
ACCs	Approved Carbon Credits
CDM	Clean Development mechanism
CO ₂	Carbon di Oxide
CORSIA	Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation
E+	GCC Scope of Environmental No-Harm
ERVR	Emission Reduction Verification Reports
GCC	Global Carbon Council
GHG	Green House Gases
GHG-SS	GHG Sectoral Scopes
GHG-TA	GHG Technical area
GORD	Gulf Organisation for Research and Development
GV	GCC Verifier
ISO	International organization for Standardization
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
PSF	Project Submission Form
PVR	Project Verification Reports
S+	Social No-net-harm Label
SDG+	Sustainable Development Goals
VB	Verification Body

1. Introduction

1. The Global Carbon Council (GCC) Program is the Middle East & North Africa (MENA) region's first voluntary GHG offsetting program and an initiative of Gulf Organisation for Research and Development (GORD). The GCC Program aims to contribute to a vision of a sustainable and low-carbon world economy. Although the GCC Program receives GHG emission-reduction projects from the entire world, it places special emphasis on low-carbon development in the MENA region, which has remained largely under-represented in carbon markets. The GCC Program helps to catalyze climate action on the ground, while ensuring that project construction and operations cause no net harm to the environment and society and contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as per host-country priorities. The GCC Program is comprised of the entire governance structure, system and the documentation framework adopted to achieve these objectives.¹
2. The Program Definitions (this document) provides the definitions for the terms used in GCC Program documents and shall be referred to while applying those documents.²
3. The definitions provided by ISO 14064-2 and ISO 14064-3 are also applicable and shall always be considered and referred to. However, the definitions in the rules and requirements of the GCC Program shall take precedence over the definitions contained in ISO 14064-2 and ISO 14064-3.
4. This document has been developed based on requirements established in section 2.5 of the Program Manual, which is the overarching program document that links together various GCC documents containing the rules and requirements governing the GCC Program.
5. This document is intended to be used by all stakeholders, including Project Owners, GCC Verifiers, the GCC Operations Team and the GCC Steering Committee, and shall always be read in conjunction with applicable GCC documents.
6. This document will be updated from time to time, and users shall ensure that they are using the most current version of the document.

2. Definitions⁺⁺

7. **Approved Carbon Credits or ACCs***

Approved Carbon Credits or ACCs means carbon credits issued by the GCC, based on a positive verification report by a GCC Verifier and approval by the Steering Committee. ACCs are held in the GCC Carbon Registry. An AC represents the right of an accountholder in whose account the unit is recorded to claim the achievement of a GHG emission reduction or removal in an amount of one (1) metric tonne of CO₂ equivalent,

¹ GCC documents are available here: www.globalcarboncouncil.com/resource-centre.html

² In GCC documents, the terms/definitions/acronyms and the first letter of each word in names of regulatory documents are capitalized (e.g., the Project Process).

* Definitions sourced from the GCC Program Framework.

+ Definitions sourced from Procedure for Approval of GCC Verifiers.

which has been verified by a GCC Verifier in accordance with GCC rules. The recording of ACCs in the account of the holder in the GCC Registry is prima facie evidence of that holder's entitlement to the ACCs.

8. **Approved GHG Standards**

The GCC Program accepts GHG mitigation projects that use GHG standards approved by the GCC and published on the GCC's website. In addition to projects using GCC-approved standards, the GCC Program accepts projects that use GHG methodologies and tools approved by the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

9. **Baseline Emissions**

Anthropogenic GHG emissions that would take place in baseline or business-as-usual scenario, in absence of a Project Activity.

10. **Baseline and Monitoring Methodology**

A GHG standard that contains the eligibility rules, project boundaries, GHG emission-reduction quantification procedures, monitoring and reporting procedures and parameters, etc. for a specific project type.

11. **Competence⁺**

Competence means the ability to apply knowledge and skills in-order-to perform verification/certification activities in accordance with all GCC Rules and requirements.

12. **Coverage of GHG***

Section 4 of the GCC Program Framework defines the six types of greenhouse gases (GHG) covered by GHG Program. These include Carbon dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous oxide (N₂O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs³), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and Sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆).

13. **Crediting Period**

The time period for which GHG emission reductions generated by a Project Activity can be claimed. Under the GCC Program, Project Activity crediting periods are fixed for a maximum of 10 years without possibility of renewal. The rules regarding the length of crediting periods are described in the GCC Project Standard and associated baseline and monitoring methodologies.

14. **Deemed Savings Factor**

A type of default energy-saving factor used to estimate the GHG emission reductions associated with energy savings resulting from an implemented Project Activity.

15. **Default Factor**

A parameter value that is specified in a methodology with the intention of partially standardizing the calculation of net GHG emission reductions and providing greater consistency of calculations across Project Activities.

³ The GCC Program at present does not accept HFC-23 abatement projects for registration.

16. Double Counting

The phenomenon under which a singular GHG emission reduction unit is utilized separately by two different entities or where the same GHG emission reduction is issued credits by two or more GHG Programs that are independent of each other.

17. Emission Reductions

A verified decrease in GHG emissions resulting from a Project Activity, as measured against an appropriate estimate of baseline emissions.

18. Emission Reduction Verification⁺

Emission reduction verifications are independent evaluations of periodically monitored and reported GHG emission reductions that have occurred as a result of a registered GCC Project Activity and for which a Project Owner is in the process of applying for issuance of ACCs under the GCC Program. Emission reduction verifications are conducted prior to the ACC Issuance stage of Project Activities by GCC Emission Reduction Verifiers and involve evaluating Project Activity Monitoring Reports against the requirements of the ISO 14064-2 and ISO 14064-3 standards and GCC Rules, including the GCC Verification Standard, and the information about the Project Activity provided in the registered GCC Project Submission Form (PSF). GCC Emission Reduction Verifiers conduct verifications and submit Emission Reduction Verification Reports (ERVR), to Project Owners and the GCC Program. All ERVRs contain an Emission Reduction Certification Statement. Emission Reduction Certification Statements essentially state that, during a specified time period, the GCC registered Project Activity: (i) has been implemented as per the information provided in the registered PSF; and, (ii) has actually achieved the reported quantity of GHG emission reductions. In addition, depending upon the Project Owner's selections in the PSF, the Emission Reduction Certification Statement may also state that: (i) the Project Activity has implemented safeguards that have provided protection against negative environmental and social impacts and it meets the GCC requirements for demonstrating that it does not harm the environment or society and is eligible to be awarded the GCC E+ and/or S+ certification labels; and (ii) the Project Activity has contributed to the achievement of one or more United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and is eligible to be awarded a GCC SDG+ certification label (Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, or Diamond), as targeted in the registered PSF.

19. Global Carbon Council

The Global Carbon Council (GCC) was established by Gulf Organisation for Research and Development (GORD). The GCC is an independent legal entity with its registered office in Doha, Qatar

20. Global Carbon Council Program or GCC Program*

The Global Carbon Council Program (GCC Program) is the Middle East & North Africa (MENA) region's first voluntary GHG offsetting program. The GCC Program aims to contribute to a vision of a sustainable and low-carbon world economy. Although the GCC Program receives GHG emission-reduction projects from the entire world, it places special emphasis on low-carbon development in the MENA region, which has been under-represented in carbon markets. The GCC Program helps to catalyze climate action on the

ground, while ensuring that project construction and operations cause no net harm to the environment and society and contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as per host-country priorities. The GCC Program is comprised of the entire governance structure, system and the documentation framework adopted to achieve these objectives.⁴

GCC Program means the governance structure, systems, carbon registry and the documentation framework to facilitate the development of a low-carbon economy and support climate mitigation actions (GHG-reduction projects and measures) by implementing and operating a voluntary carbon marketplace that recognizes, and facilitates carbon finance for, GCC Project Activities. The GCC Operations Team in Doha, Qatar serves as Secretariat of the GCC Program and works under the strategic advice of the GCC Advisory Board. Decisions pertaining to the registration of Project Activities and issuance of ACCs are made collectively by the members of the GCC Steering Committee, which is comprised of nominated and recognized experts, based on positive verification reports by GCC Verifiers.

21. **GCC Project Owner***

GCC Project Owner (or Project Owner) means the single or multiple legal entity(ies) or organization(s) that has (have) overall control of and responsibility for a Project Activity.

22. **GCC Project or GCC Project Activity***

A GCC Project or GCC Project Activity is a mitigation activity, or activities implemented as a distinct project, under the GCC Program. GCC Project Activities are described in a Project Submission Form. The implementation of a GCC Project Activity, with a specific set of technologies and/or measures as specified in a baseline and monitoring methodology, alters the conditions identified in the baseline scenario and results in GHG emission reductions. There are two broad types of projects which qualify to be registered as Project Activities under the GCC Program. Type-A projects are projects that are not and have not previously been registered under any other GHG Program. Type-B projects are de-registered CDM projects whose Project Owners wish to register them under the GCC Program. Further details about these project types are provided in the GCC Project Standard.

23. **GCC Project Submission***

GCC Project Submission means the documents submitted by a Project Owner(s) that describe a project's GHG emission reduction or removal activities. GCC Project Submissions shall use the GCC Project Submission Form template.

24. **GCC Project Submission Form***

The GCC Project Submission Form (PSF) is a template published by the GCC Program on its website. The PSF shall be used by Project Owner(s) to submit GHG reduction projects when applying for registration under the GCC Program.

⁴ GCC documents are available here: www.globalcarboncouncil.com/resource-centre.html

25. **GCC Carbon Registry**

GCC Carbon Registry means the system comprised of the GCC project database, containing details on projects and carbon credits, to provide Project Owners with the ability to request issuance of Approved Carbon Credit (ACC) units for their registered projects and receive, transfer, hold and retire ACCs. GCC Carbon Registry⁵ is operated by third-party organization IHS Markit⁶ on behalf of GCC Program, and accessible via IHS Markit online website⁷. GCC Program is holding a current, valid agreement with the international registry service provider IHS Markit, to provide Carbon registry services on behalf of the GCC Program. The GCC Carbon Registry interacts with the GCC project database to issue ACCs, and hold, transfer, retire, suspend, cancel and provide custodial services for ACCs on behalf of its Account Holders.

To open an account in the GCC online Carbon Registry and become an Account Holder, Projects Owners shall: submit an online application form⁸ for opening an account; comply with the requisite Know-Your-Customer (KYC) checks; and pay the requisite one-time GCC Registry Account Opening Fee and the Annual Registry Account Maintenance Fee, as per the latest version of GCC Fee Schedule.⁹

26. **GCC Rules***

GCC Rules means the body of rules set out by the GCC Program. GCC Rules form a regulatory framework for achieving certified GHG emission reductions and additional voluntary labels (SDG+, E+, S+, and the CORSIA-market eligibility flag (C+)) under the GCC Program. GCC Rules include the ISO 14064-2 standard, ISO 14064-3 standard, the GCC Program Framework, the GCC Program Manual, the GCC Project Standard, approved methodologies and tools, and the other documents referred to in the GCC Documentation Framework (refer to section 14 of the GCC Program Framework document). The GCC Rules are publicly available on the GCC website.¹⁰ These rules may be updated from time to time.

27. **GCC Scopes (GCC-S)*+**

GCC Scopes (GCC-S) are the four broad scopes of the GCC Program:

- Greenhouse Gas (GHG)
- Environmental No-net-harm (E+)
- Social No-net-harm (S+)
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG+)

⁵ GCC Carbon Registry public view website: <https://mer.markit.com/br-reg/public/public-view/#/account>

⁶ GCC has contracted IHS Markit to host and provide registry services for the GCC Carbon Registry. The Program Manual provides more information on the GCC Carbon Registry.

⁷ The GCC Carbon Registry is accessible via the IHS Markit website: <https://ihsmarkit.com/products/environmental-registry.html>

⁸ Online account application form: <https://mer.markit.com/br-reg/public/customer-registration.jsp>

⁹ GCC Fee Schedule: <https://www.globalcarboncouncil.com/gcc-fees.html>

¹⁰ GCC Rules: <https://www.globalcarboncouncil.com/resource-centre.html>

The GCC Program has classified the GHG Scope into 16 GHG sectoral scopes (GHG-SS). Each GHG-SS has been further classified into at least one GHG Technical area (GHG-TA). Refer to the GCC Program Framework and Procedure for Approval of GCC Verifiers, which provide details on the GCC-S, GHG-SS and GHG-TA classification.

The approved GCC and CDM methodologies define the GHG-SS under which they are applicable. An approved GCC Verifier shall only conduct project or emission-reduction verifications under the GCC Program for projects types and sectors corresponding to the defined GCC Scopes and GHG Sectoral Scopes. GCC Verifiers are required to be approved by the GCC for at least one GHG-SS to be eligible to provide services under the GCC Program.

28. GCC Verifier

A GCC Verifier (GV) or Verification Body (VB) means an individual or an organization approved by the GCC Program to act as a GCC Verifier and provide verification services in accordance with the GCC rules.

29. GHG Sectoral Scopes (GHG-SS) **

A GHG sectoral scope (GHG-SS) is defined as a group of activities/measures and processes sharing similar sources of GHG emissions or removals. The GHG Scope has been further classified and covers the following 16 GHG sectoral scopes (GHG-SS):

GHG Sectoral Scope (GHG-SS #)	GHG Sectoral Scope Title ¹¹
1.	Energy (renewable/non-renewable sources)
2.	Energy distribution
3.	Energy demand
4.	Manufacturing industries
5.	Chemical industry
6.	Construction
7.	Transport
8.	Mining/mineral production
9.	Metal production
10.	Fugitive emissions from fuels (solid, oil and gas)
11.	Fugitive emissions from the production and consumption of halocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride
12.	Solvents use
13.	Waste handling and disposal

¹¹ Note that the GCC Program does not accept HFC-23 abatement projects for registration.

14.	Afforestation and Reforestation ¹²
15.	Agriculture
16.	Carbon Capture and Storage of CO ₂ in Geological Formations ¹³

30. **GHG Technical area (GHG-TA)⁺**

A GHG Technical Area is a sub-sector of a GHG sectoral scope (GHG-SS). A GHG-TA is defined by its technical processes, applicable methodologies, monitoring requirements and/or environmental impacts. For each GHG-TA, the GCC Program has defined GHG competency requirements of the GCC Verification team and which shall be ensured by the GCC Verifier who appoints the team. Refer to the Procedure for Approval of GCC Verifiers which provides details on the classifications of GCC Scopes, GHG-SS and GHG-TA.

31. **Improper ACC Issuance***

Improper ACC Issuance refers to one or more units of Approved Carbon Credits (ACCs) being issued as result of gross negligence, fraud or willful misconduct of the GCC Verifier. Improper ACC Issuance may be determined following an issuance review, in accordance with the Procedure for Approval of GCC Verifiers.

32. **ISO⁺**

ISO is the International Organization for Standardization. Where ISO is followed by a number, it denotes a specific standard of the International Organization for Standardization.

33. **Knowledge⁺**

Knowledge means the theoretical and/or practical understanding of a subject.

34. **Leakage**

Leakage is net changes in anthropogenic emissions by GHG sources that occur outside the project or program boundary but are attributable to the GCC Project Activity.

35. **Materiality**

Materiality is the concept applied to determine if identified errors, omissions and misstatements in information regarding a Project Activity could affect the Project Activity GHG assertion and influence GCC registration and issuance decisions.

36. **Measure**

The term measure is used in the GCC Program to refer to an activity or a decision which, if implemented under a Project Activity, results in GHG emission reductions as compared to the baseline situation for the Project Activity. A measure may or may not require an

¹² Note that at present under the GCC Program, GHG Sectoral Scope No 14 is not applicable for projects applying for CORSIA-eligible carbon credits.

¹³ Note that at present under the GCC Program, GHG Sectoral Scope No 16 is not applicable for projects applying for CORSIA-eligible carbon credits.

initial investment and/or recurring expenses. Examples of measures include: fuel switching; feedstock switching; and a decision to continue implementing an existing GHG emission-reduction activity even when doing so incurs losses or creates impediments.

37. **Methodology***

The term methodology is used in the GCC Program to refer to a baseline and monitoring methodology that has either been approved in accordance with the GCC Methodology Development Process (see: GCC Program Processes) or by the CDM Executive Board. Methodologies apply to specific types of GHG-emission-reduction Project Activities and mainly consist of procedures for determining the project boundary, defining a baseline scenario, demonstrating additionality, calculating baseline and project emissions and emission reductions, and defining required monitoring procedures as well as non-monitored and monitored parameters. A methodology also defines the relevant GHG sectoral scopes(s) for which it is applicable, as per the internationally recognized scopes defined in Procedure for Approval of GCC Verifiers and in the GCC Program Framework.

38. **Methodology Development and Revision Process**

The methodology development and revision process is the process through which new methodologies are developed, revised and approved under the GCC Program.

39. **Monitoring Period**

A monitoring period is the time period for which a set of GHG emission reductions generated by a Project Activity are monitored by the Project Owner(s) and verified by a GCC Verifier.

40. **Positive List**

A positive list is a list of GHG-abatement technologies and measures, which, if implemented under a Project Activity, are automatically eligible to claim carbon credits under the GCC Program without demonstrating their additionality, provided that specific applicable eligibility criteria are fulfilled.

There are two types of positive lists:

- (a) **Global Positive List:** a list provided in the CDM Tool 32¹⁴: Methodological Tool – Positive List of Technologies.
- (b) **Regional Positive List:** a list that is defined by the GCC Program and is applicable to a specific region. Regional Positive Lists may be created for technologies and measures with limited penetration in a region, based on thorough research and analysis and applying credible sources of information. Such positive lists may be included in applicable GCC methodologies.

41. **Project Submission Form**

A Project Submission Form is the document that describes a project's GHG emission-reduction activities. A template that is to be used when preparing a Project Submission Form is available on the GCC Program website.

¹⁴ <https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/PAmethodologies/tools/am-tool-32-v2.0.pdf>

42. **Project Verification⁺**

Project Verifications are independent evaluations of projects for which a Project Owner is in the process of applying for registration under the GCC Program. Project Verifications are conducted prior to the Project Registration Stage by approved GCC Project Verifiers applying the requirements of the ISO 14064-2 and ISO 14064-3 standards and GCC Rules, including the Verification Standard, and on the basis of the information about the project provided in the GCC Project Submission Form. GCC Project Verifiers conduct verifications and submit Project Verification Reports (PVR) to Project Owners and the GCC Program. All PVRs contain a Project Certification Statement. Project Certification Statements essentially state that the project: (i) complies with GCC Rules and procedures; and, (ii) is expected to achieve the quantity of real, measurable and additional GHG emission reductions estimated in the PSF. In addition, depending upon the Project Owner's selections in the PSF, the Project Certification Statement may also state that: (i) the Project Owner has committed to implementing safeguards that are expected to provide protection against negative environmental and social impacts and that the project is expected to meet GCC requirements for demonstrating that it does not harm the environment or society and thereby be eligible to be awarded the GCC E+ and/or S+ certification labels; and (ii) the project is expected to contribute to the achievement of one or more United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, preferably those prioritized by the host country, and thereby be eligible to be awarded a GCC SDG+ certification label (Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, or Diamond), as committed to voluntarily in the PSF.

43. **Registry Accountholder⁺**

A Registry Accountholder is a legal holder of an account in the GCC Carbon Registry operated by IHS Markit on behalf of the GCC Program.

44. **Skill⁺**

Skill means to carry out in practice or to do.

45. **Submitted**

The term submitted is used in the GCC Program to refer to a specific status of a project that a Project Owner(s) wishes to register as a Project Activity under the GCC Program. An application for registration of a project is considered submitted to the GCC Program when all of the appropriate documents have been completed and submitted via the GCC website as per the requirements in the Program Process.

46. **Technical Review (TR)⁺**

A Technical Review is an assessment of a verification/certification opinion and verification/certification report that is conducted independently from the Verifier's verification team that prepared the opinion and report, in order to ensure that the verification/certification has been conducted in accordance with all applicable GCC verification/certification requirements.

47. **Verification Body**

A verification body is an organization or individual, also called as GCC Verifier, approved by GCC Program to act as a verification body for providing project verification and emission reduction verification services in accordance with the GCC rules.

48. **Verification Services****

Verification Services are the services provided by a GCC Verifier when conducting a Project Verification or an Emission Reduction Verification, as per the Verification Standard, Program Processes, and Procedure for Approval of GCC Verifiers.

Document History

Version	Date	Comment
V 3.1	31/12/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The name of GCC Program’s emission units has been changed from “Approved Carbon Reductions” or ACRs to “Approved Carbon Credits” or ACCs.
V 3.0	12/08/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revised version released on approval by the Steering Committee as per the GCC Program Processes. ▪ The revised version contains the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Change of name from the Global Carbon Trust (GCT) to the Global Carbon Council (GCC); ○ Considered and addressed comments raised by the Steering Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ during the physical meeting (SCM 01, dated 29 Oct 2019, Doha Qatar); and ➤ electronic consultations EC01-Round 01 (15.09.2019 – 25.09.2019), EC01-Round 02 (27.03.2020 – 27.06.2020). ➤ electronic consultations EC01-Round 03 (08.08.2020-16.08.2020). ▪ Feedback from the Technical Advisory Board (TAB) of ICAO on GCC submissions for approval under CORSIA¹⁵.
V 2.0	25/06/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revised version released for approval by the GCC Steering Committee. ▪ This version contains details and information to be provided, consequent to the latest worldwide developments (e.g., CORSIA EUC).
V 1.0	01/11/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initial version released for approval by the GCC Steering Committee under the GCC Program Version 1

¹⁵See ICAO recommendation for conditional approval of the GCC at https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Documents/TAB/Excerpt_TAB_Report_Jan_2020_final.pdf



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